



Camp Elliott – East Elliott Munitions Response Site 01B (Project Number J09CA006705)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Fact Sheet

April 2021

Introduction

This fact sheet has been developed to educate the public about the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) known as Munitions Response Site (MRS) 01B. A FUDS is a property that was formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense (DoD) and transferred from DoD control prior to October 17, 1986.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the governmental organization responsible for environmental remediation of FUDS.

Because hazards from military munitions may remain at the property, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages you to be safe by following the 3Rs: **Recognize, Retreat, Report.**

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Hazards from military munitions may still remain within the former camp. Protect yourself by following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety:

Recognize
when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat
do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

Report
call 911 and advise police of what you saw and where you saw it.

Site Overview and History

The MRS 01B is located approximately 12 miles northeast of downtown San Diego, California, and is comprised of approximately 523 acres. It is one of seven sub-areas of a larger FUDS called East Elliott MRS 01, located within the boundaries of the former Camp Elliott.

The former Camp Elliott was used by the military from World War I through the early 1960s, starting with Camp Kearney, an Army training installation commissioned in May 1917 on Kearney Mesa (near present-day Marine Corps Air Station Miramar), home to the National Guard 40th Infantry Division. Troops were trained in live-fire artillery. Camp Kearney was closed in October 1920.

The military returned to the area in 1940, with the establishment of Camp Holcomb by the U. S. Marine Corps (USMC) as a development and training center on 19,000 acres. Camp Holcomb was renamed to Camp Elliott later that year. Camp Elliott, which later expanded to 30,500 acres, housed the Second Marine Division, and later served as home to the USMC Headquarters Command, Fleet

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

915 WILSHIRE BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

[HTTPS://WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/FORMERLY-USED-DEFENSE-SITES/](https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/missions/formerly-used-defense-sites/)

Marine Training Center, and Base Depot, among others. Specialty camps were established within or near Camp Elliott for parachutists; scouts, snipers, and officer candidates; replacement troops awaiting overseas posting; and tank training. An Anti-Tank Section was activated at Camp Elliott in 1942.



During World War II the range complex associated with MRS 01 was comprised of nine overlapping ranges, two of which fired into MRS 01B. These include Range U and Range V, which were maneuver, combat, and musketry ranges. The firing points of these ranges were located south of MRS 01B, and the impact areas were within MRS 01B.

Following World War II and up until 1953, Camp Elliott was used as a U.S. Navy Training and Redistribution Center where no live-fire weapons training was conducted. From 1953 to 1960 Camp Elliott assumed a variety of military uses, including the installation for the USMC 1st Tank Battalion. The closure of Camp Elliott in 1960 ended DoD's use of the property.

In 1962, approximately 15,000 acres of the former Camp Elliott, including the property later known as East Elliott MRS 01, were declared surplus land by the DoD and transferred to the General Services Administration for disposition. By 1974, most of the surplus land had been sold, including 3,035.5 acres that compose East Elliott, to real estate developers, private parties, and municipalities.

Previous Investigations and Removal Actions

Clearance and Removal Activities

The Army performed a munitions survey on portions of East Elliott MRS 01 in 1984. Additional ordnance and explosives removal activities were conducted between 1994 and 2007 within portions of East Elliott MRS 01. Military munitions were identified and disposed of during these activities.

Additional studies completed for East Elliott include the following:

- Inventory Project Report (1991) establishes East Elliott MRS 01 as a FUDS and documents potential risks.
- Archives Search Report (1995) contains historical data, field data, and an assessment of the potential presence of munitions.
- Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (1999) includes an assessment and evaluation of potential risks, and an evaluation of removal action alternatives. Clearance activities are recommended.
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) (2018) characterizes the nature and extent of munitions and munitions constituents, fills data gaps, and assesses potential explosives safety hazards within East Elliott MRS 01. The seven sub-areas (01A through 01G) of East Elliott MRS 01 are first delineated in this document (**Figure 1**). The purpose of the sub-area delineations was to facilitate the evaluation of the potential hazards to human health posed by the potential presence of munitions and explosives of concern within each area. The sub-

area divisions were based on several factors that included, but not limited to, results of previous investigations, distribution of unexploded ordnance and munitions debris, and current and anticipated future land use. Using information from the remedial investigation, the feasibility study developed, evaluated, and comparatively analyzed seven potential remedial alternatives for sub-areas 01A, 01B, 01C, 01D and 01F.

- Proposed Plan (2018) facilitates public involvement in the remedy selection process for sub-areas 01A, 01B, 01C, 01D and 01F. The Proposed Plan presents the seven remedial alternatives and the preferred remedy for each sub-area. The public was invited to review the Proposed Plan and provide comments.
- Decision Document (2018) this document was prepared specifically for East Elliott - MRS 01B and documents the selected remedial alternative for the munitions response site. Designed to minimize inadvertent exposure to potential explosive safety hazards potentially remaining at the site, the selected remedy is “Institutional Controls (ICs) to Protect Current and Future Site Users.” Actions for the selected remedy include 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat, Report) Education Awareness Program and Site-Specific Emergency Contact Information.

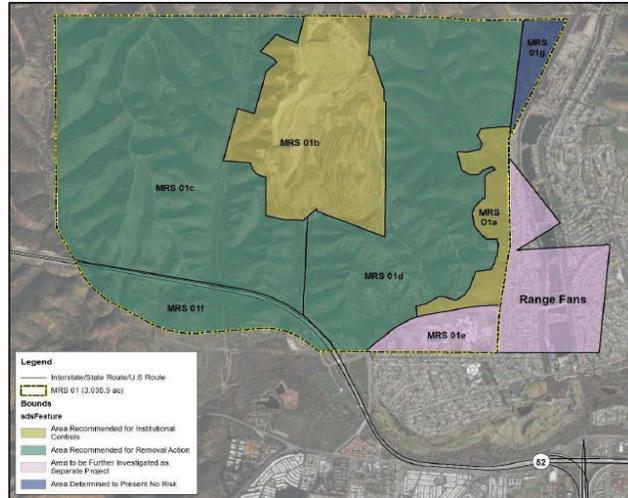


Figure 1 Camp Elliott, East Elliott MRS 01 and Seven Sub-Areas
(MRS 01B is located in the center of the image)

Site Development/USACE Support East Elliott – MRS 01B

The 523-acre MRS 01B is currently an active landfill, the Sycamore Landfill. The Sycamore Landfill was opened in 1962 by the County of San Diego and is permitted to remain in operation until 2045. Fencing around the landfill restricts access to the site and “no trespassing” signs are posted.

The USACE provided construction support that resulted in munitions removal operations during the expansion of the Sycamore Landfill in 1998/1999. During that removal operation 24 unexploded ordnance items were located and destroyed. In 2004/2005, 221 acres within MRS 01B were cleared for another expansion; 23 live items and 105 inert items were recovered and disposed of at the time. If any munitions remain within MRS 01B, they are most likely buried under approximately 200 feet of landfill wastes or in areas of inaccessible terrain.

Once the landfill has reached capacity, its surface will be revegetated with native plant species and the area will become part of the Mission Trails Regional Park.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**
Los Angeles District

For more information:

Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Public Affairs Office at 213-452-3921

To learn more about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

915 WILSHIRE BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

[HTTPS://WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/FORMERLY-USED-DEFENSE-SITES/](https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/missions/formerly-used-defense-sites/)